

Susan A. Messina

1275 25th Street, NW, #707 Washington, DC, 20037

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December 4, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in *strong* opposition to the proposed regulation that in order to use a directed donor's sperm fresh, a woman must have been sexually intimate with the donor.

I am a 35-year-old lesbian who has been trying for 3 years to become pregnant. My story is long and involves several unknown donors from a sperm bank, a great deal of fertility treatment, and ultimately the excitement and joy of having a good gay male friend agree to be a donor/involved dad. In early October I miscarried our first pregnancy. My donor, partner, and I are all very hopeful that I will get pregnant again and this time carry the baby to term.

My doctor, a well-respected reproductive endocrinologist, confirms what I know from my own review of the literature: fresh sperm is healthier, more viable and more likely to result in a pregnancy. Therefore, it is fresh sperm that we use for intrauterine inseminations, after my treatment with fertility drugs. We are committed to maximizing my chances for a pregnancy, after this difficult and emotional 3-year journey.

My doctor merely asked that my donor and I do an insemination on our own, at home, before coming to him. That was his way of saying, "OK, you need to put that sperm in the vagina—thus assuming risk of HIV, STDs, and other diseases—and then if that doesn't work, I will do the insemination." He **did not** presume to require that my donor and I actually have sexual intercourse.

I am appalled that the FDA would see fit to *require* sexual intimacy between any two adults. There could be nothing more intrusive, in my mind.

I understand the FDA's concern about disease transmission, but that does not override the right of any individual woman to decide who the father of her child will be and to have the ability to choose the most efficacious way of achieving pregnancy.

I urge you to delete the proposed regulation requiring sexual intimacy between a woman and a directed donor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

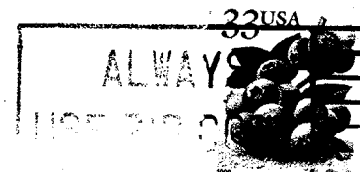
Sincerely,

  
Susan A. Messina

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